The amendments to claims contains a listing of the amended claims and will replace all prior versions of the associated claims in the application:

Amendments to Claims:

29.   (Currently amended)   The apparatus ~~node~~ according to claim 28, wherein the information comprises a plurality of real-time data values from the content provider.

30.   (Currently amended)   The apparatus ~~node~~ according to claim 28, wherein the updating of information from the content provider further comprises:

accessing a hash table containing a plurality of prior real-time data values using a plurality of keys associated with the plurality of real-time data values;

determining whether the plurality of real-time data values received from content provider has changed from the prior plurality of real-time data values contained in the hash table; and

updating the prior plurality real-time data values contained in the hash table with the plurality of real-time values received from the content provider when the plurality of real-time data values received from content provider has changed from the plurality of prior real-time data values contained in the hash table.

31.   (Currently amended)   The apparatus ~~node~~ according to claim 30, wherein the network node retrieves a user defined portfolio by a data thread containing a plurality of keys, the data thread being received from the user terminal, generates activated HTML page containing an embedded applet and downloads the activated HTML page to the user terminal.

32.   (Currently amended)   The apparatus ~~node~~ according to claim 30, wherein the network node monitors the plurality of keys contained in the user defined portfolio and identifies currently active keys of said plurality of keys.

33.   (Currently amended)   The apparatus ~~node~~ according to claim 32, wherein the network node reads the currently active keys, determines if the currently active keys have changed, updates the hash table with the real-time data values for currently active keys, and downloads the real-time values for the currently active keys that have changed from the hash table to the user terminal.

34.   (Currently amended) The apparatus ~~node~~ according to the claim 33, wherein the network node determines whether a shutdown request was made and disconnects all connections to the user terminal when the shutdown request was made.